

Hart Van Denburg, *City Pages* (blog)

The repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has passed the U.S. House of Representatives. Gay folk are one step closer to being able to serve their country in the military openly.

Minnesota Democrats Keith Ellison, Betty McCollum, Jim Oberstar and Tim Walz sided with the president and the secretary of defense on the measure, helping to propel the bill to passage, 250-175.

Minnesota Republicans Michele Bachmann, John Kline and Erik Paulsen were joined by Democrat Collin Peterson in voting against the bill.

Walz is the most senior enlisted military man in the House.

The bill now goes to the Senate where there are enough Republicans on board with the measure to squelch an attempted GOP filibuster. Both Minnesota senators, Democrats Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken, are expected to vote for the repeal.